GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
BAN ON CRIMINAL T.V. SERIALS/RELEASE OF FILMS
SHYAMA SINGH;SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban telecast of T.V. Serials/release of films, which induce minors to commit crime, as reported in `The Statesman` dated July 26, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the functioning of Censor Board has been found to be ineffective in dealing with such a situation; and

(d) if so, the details of other strategies to be adopted to ensure that films or T.V. serials which induce minors to commit crimes, are not telecast/shown?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 404 FOR ANS ON 21/08/2003

(a) to (d): Programmes telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the cabletelevision network, are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter alia, provides that no programmes should be carried in the cable service which −

? Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;
? Contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952;
? Is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

The Programme Code further provides that care should be taken to ensure that programmesmeant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence. The Act also provides that programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

So far as Doordarshan is concerned, the Prasar Bharati has informed that all serialsscheduled for telecast are subjected to preview to ensure conformity with the Broadcast Code of Doordarshan and suitability for family viewing.

The Act provides that any authorised officer i.e. DM or SDM or Commissioner of Police orany other officer notified in the official gazette, by the Central Government or the State Government, may by order prohibit any transmission or retransmission of any programme or channel if it is not in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. The Central Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Act to look intothe violations of the Programme Code, either suo-moto or on receipt of a specific complaint. The Government is vigilant in this regard and is committed to dealing expeditiously and effectively with any breach of the Programme Code in this regard.

As regards public exhibition of films, the same are released after certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed thereunder. The guidelines under the Act, inter alia, provide that the scenes depicting anti-social activities, such as violence, modus operandi of criminals, scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction, glorifying drinking etc. are not depicted, and these are being strictly adhered to.